

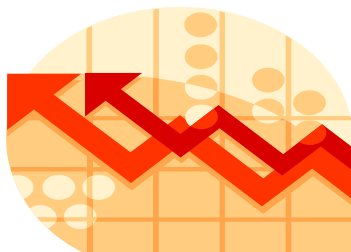


AmeriCorps IN Action

Volunteering In America

Nearly 30% of Indiana residents volunteer their time and talent to serve others, according to "Volunteering in America: State Trends and Rankings," a study released by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The report shows that each year Hoosiers give over 189 million hours of volunteer service, valued at over \$3.4 billion. Volunteers provide critical services that could not be easily replaced.

"This study confirms what we have long known; that the great Hoosier tradition of helping your neighbor is alive and strong," said Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels. "People are helping in schools, houses of worship, community groups and many other places. Volunteers make a real difference in our state; I encourage all Hoosiers to take time to help others."



The study analyzes data collected over the past four years by the U.S. Census Bureau, and documents volunteer efforts in each state. The full report is available at www.nationalservice.gov.

After reviewing the study, Paula Parker-Sawyers, Executive Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives stated that "OFBCI is inspired and encouraged by the deep commitment to volunteering in Indiana. Through the efforts of thousands our state is stronger." Since being created by Governor Daniels on the second day of his administration, OFBCI has provided volun-

teers for activities as diverse as Rx for Indiana and the resettlement of hurricane refugees in Indiana.

Over 41,000 Hoosiers volunteer through programs of the Corporation for National and Community Service, including AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America and Senior Corps. These programs are supported by the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, Department of Education Service Learning, and the Corporation for National and Community Service's Indiana office. There are currently 68 sites in Indiana hosting Corporation for National and Community Service programs.

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"Service-learning is often the beginning influence to a lifetime of volunteerism," said Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Suellen Reed. "It is important that we develop students who make informed decisions based on moral and civic values and become actively engaged within their communities."

AmeriCorps*VISTA, AmeriCorps*NCCC, AmeriCorps National? What is that?

AmeriCorps is not just a state program but offers a diverse group of service choices beyond the state level. These programs include AmeriCorps* NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps), AmeriCorps* VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), and AmeriCorps* National.



AmeriCorps* NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) is a full-time, team-based residential program for men and women age 18–24. The mission of AmeriCorps* NCCC is to strengthen communities and develop leaders through direct, team-based national and community service. In partnership with nonprofit organizations, state and local agencies, and faith-based and other community organizations, members complete service projects throughout the region they are assigned.

AmeriCorps* NCCC requires an intensive, 10-month commitment. Members serve in teams of ten to twelve and are assigned to projects throughout the region served by their campus. They are trained in CPR, first aid, public safety, and other skills before beginning their first service project.

AmeriCorps* National provides grants directly to national public and nonprofit organizations that sponsor service programs, Indian tribes, and consortia formed across two or more states, including faith-based and community organizations, higher education institutions, and public agencies. The purpose of AmeriCorps* National is to engage AmeriCorps members in direct service and capacity-building to address unmet community needs.

AmeriCorps* VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) provides full-time members to nonprofit, faith-based and other community organizations, and public agencies to create and expand programs that ultimately bring low-income in-

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Indiana State University Recognizes Outstanding AmeriCorps Program

On March 22, 2006, the Center for Public Service and Community Engagement at Indiana State University held its first Community Engagement Recognition Banquet. Several AmeriCorps members were among the award winners.

The honorees were Crystal Thomas, 2005-2006 Outstanding AmeriCorps member, Sycamore Service Corps and Betty Clary, 2005-2006 Outstanding Site Supervisor Award.



Betty Clary (top) and Crystal Thomas (below) are honored by Sycamore Service Corps on March 22, 2006.



AmeriCorps Member of the Month-Shamar Baltzell-AmeriCorps Southwest Indiana

Member Shamar Baltzell is currently serving her second AmeriCorps term with AmeriCorps Southwest Indiana. Her position at the Boys & Girls Club focuses on youth through the initiative "Mitch's Kids."

"Mitch's Kids" is a statewide after-school educational program launched in December 2005 in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club. It focuses on reading skills, math, and developing study habits.

Through her AmeriCorps ser-

vice, Shamar has been able to continue a relationship with the Boys and Girls Club which began when she attended the Club at nine years of age. Through her time spent at the Boy and Girls Club, Shamar was able to develop critical leadership skills which she utilizes everyday as an AmeriCorps member. She facilitates one-on-one and group tutoring. She also fosters youth development, career exploration, and on-site introduction to computer sessions.

"She has a genuine love for children she works with daily, and does her very best to assist them in any capacity She has demonstrated through her service that she is an excellent representation of national service."

Carol DeMond,
Program Coordinator, AmeriCorps Southwest Indiana

Shamar is currently majoring in social work at University of Southern Indiana in Evansville.

Program of the Month: AmeriCorps Southwest Indiana

Since September 2002, AmeriCorps Southwest Indiana members have been facilitating a variety of projects in Perry, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh and Warrick counties.

The AmeriCorps Southwest Indiana members focus on service initiatives centered around education, citizenship and community development. Members assist with tutoring youth, assisting seniors in a variety of activities to enhance their quality of life, cultivating volunteers to sustain AmeriCorps activities, coordinating commu-



AmeriCorps provides national service opportunities in many different capacities.

nity collaboration projects that will strengthen local communities and improve the capacity to solve problems, etc.

Currently, AmeriCorps Southwest Indiana has 10 members

placed at 4 host agencies. The participating agencies include The Boys & Girls Club, Grace House, Wesselman Nature Preserve, and Counseling For Change. Five AmeriCorps members are enrolled in their second year of national service with AmeriCorps Southwest Indiana. For more information about AmeriCorps Southwest Indiana please visit <http://www.wibnews.org/>.



(Continued) What is that?

dividuals and communities out of poverty. AmeriCorps* VISTA members leverage human, financial, and material resources to increase the capacity of low-income communities across the country to solve their own problems.

For more information about AmeriCorps programs, please visit www.americorps.org.



Quick Updates

- Did you miss an edition of AmeriCorps IN Action? All monthly edition of AmeriCorps IN Action are now available on the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives website. Please visit <http://www.in.gov/ofbci/resource/index.html> for latest edition.
- If your AmeriCorps program has an upcoming event, article idea, or accomplishment and would like to highlight in AmeriCorps IN Action, please contact, Christina Mauntel at cmaintel@ofbci.in.gov or 317-234-4235.



July 2006: Important Dates

July 4, 2006	Fourth of July- OFBCI closed
July 6, 2006	Monthly Program Director's Conference Call-9 AM (EST)
July 10, 2006	PER due for period ending June 30th.
July 28, 2006	Progress Reports due in WBRS
July 31, 2006	Financial Status Report (FSR) due for period April 1, 2006-June 30 , 2006



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